

REMARKS

The Examiner is thanked for the due consideration given the application.

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-8, 10-19 and 21-23 are pending in the application. By this amendment, allowable claims 9 and 20 have been canceled and their subject matter has been incorporated into independent claims 1 and 12, respectively.

No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this amendment.

Entry of this amendment under 37 CFR §1.116 is respectfully requested because it cancels claims and places the application in condition for allowance.

Rejections Based on KATO

Claims 1, 2, 4-7, 10, 12, 13, 15-18, 21 and 23 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by KATO (EP 1 089 571 A2). Claims 3, 11, 14 and 22 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over KATO in view of ITO (U.S. Patent 6,532,333). Claims 8 and 19 have been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over KATO in view of LIN et al. (U.S. Patent 6,707,778). These rejections are respectfully traversed.

Allowable claims 9 and 20 have been canceled and their subject matter has been generally incorporated into independent claims 1 and 12. Claims 9 and 20 were free of these rejections based on KATO and the incorporation of their subject matter into

independent claims 1 and 12 render these independent claims instantly patentable. Claims depending upon claim 1 or 12 are patentable for at least this reason.

These rejections are believed to be overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is thanked for considering the Information Disclosure Statement filed November 7, 2003 and for making an initialed PTO-1449 Form of record in the application.

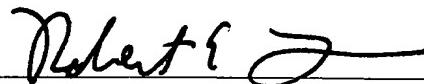
Prior art of record but not utilized is believed to be non-pertinent to the instant claims.

The rejections are believed to have been overcome, obviated or rendered moot, and that no issues remain. The Examiner is accordingly respectfully requested to place the application in condition for allowance and to issue a Notice of Allowability.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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